

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division
31770 Gonzaga Rd. CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 6 and Reach 7 Embankment Grading

Project Location City & County: Fresno County and Kings County

Project Location – Specific: There are six sites associated with this project. The northernmost project site (project site one) is approximately 5.3 miles southwest of the unincorporated community of Califlax; the southernmost project site (project site six) is approximately 0.7 miles west of the unincorporated community of Kettleman City. Project sites one, two, and three are in Fresno County; project sites five and six are in Kings County. Project site four has portions in both Fresno and Kings Counties.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will grade six project sites on the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Project sites one and two are in Reach 6. Project site one extends from the right side (R) of milepost (MP) 145.32 to MP 145.90R, project site two is from the left side (L) of MP 149.59 to MP 151.73L. Project sites three through six are in Reach 7. Project site three extends from MP 155.80L to MP 157.50L, project site four is from MP 163.69R to 164.40R, project site five is from MP 167.78R to MP 168.80R, and project site six is from MP 172.25L to MP 172.60L. The length of the project sites, combined, is approximately 6.50 miles of Aqueduct right-of-way.

SLFD will use a bulldozer to fill erosions and rodent burrows, grade soil to the original design slope, and compact soil between the Aqueduct access road, and the road on top of the embankment, if present, and the toe road. SLFD will then use a scraper to grade all unpaved roads and road shoulders in the project areas, including v-ditches.

This project is necessary to maintain physical integrity of the Aqueduct, control surface water runoff, reduce fire hazards, and allow maintenance vehicle access to the Aqueduct. State Water Project Contractors will benefit.

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])

Categorical Exemption: 15301 (Existing Facilities)

Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: The project involves grading existing Aqueduct embankments and roads to the original design specifications. The project will not result in expansion of the use of the Aqueduct, the Aqueduct roads, or the embankments. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Eleuterio Diaz

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Eleuterio Diaz **Date:** 12/16/2021 **Title:** Utility Craftsworker Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant